of the 220 KV cable pot head on blue phase single phase transformer of Unit IV, consequent to which 1800 litres of transformer oil caught fire.

(c) The loss has been estimated at Rs. 4.92 crores.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal release for domestic and small industrial users

366. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to release more coal both for domestic and small industrial users to meet the shortage of supply of petroleum products;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of coal released during the month of September, 1990 onwards so far;

(c) what was the total demand as against the total production of coal upto August, 1990; and

(d) to what extent the shortage of coal is being met?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) Yes, Sir. A time bound programme to supply coal to domestic and small industrial users has been drawn up. Further, more coal has been offered under free sale scheme.

(b) Coal offtake for soft coke, brick and kiln industry and other consumers for the months of Septmeber, October and November '90 is as follows:—

(million tonnes)

Month	Offtake
September '90 . . .	2.25
October '90	2.61
November '90 . . .	3.41

(c) and (d) Information about demand, production and offtake of coal is as follows:—

(Million tonnes)

Demand 1990-91 (April '90-March '91)	Actual production (April-August '90)	Off-take (April-August '90)
234.10	71.87	80.84

(Data provisional)

Recommendations made by State Power Ministers Conference

367. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that establishment of regional tariff advisory committees to determine an appropriate tariff structure for sale of electricity in a region from Central Stations as well as from generating stations of the State Electricity Boards and power utilities, has been recommended by the State Power Ministers Conference;

(b) if so, what were the other suggestions made;

(c) how many of them have been accepted; and

(d) what steps are being taken to implement the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BARANRAO DHAKNE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the suggestions made at the State Power Ministers Conference held on the 11th and 12th September, 1990 is given in the statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The suggestions made of the Power Ministers Conference are under consideration of the Central as well as the concerned State Governments.

Statement

Major suggestions made at the State Power Minister Conference held on 11-12*th September,* 1990

(i) Establishment of Regional Tariff Advisory Committees for determining an appropriate structure for sale of electricity in the Region from the Central Stations as well as from the generating stations of the State Electricity Board/Power Utilities. The terms of reference of the Committee would be decided after further consultation with the States;

(ii) Setting up of a System Improvement Fund for each region, the modalities of which would be worked out by an Expert Committee;

(iii) Compensatory afforestation in the cases of Transmission Lines passing over forest land should be dispensed with;

(iv) The embargo on posing of power projects for bilateral external assistance should be reviewed in view of the overall scarcity of resources;

(v) Levy of import duty on proprietory items required for the renovation and modernisation of existing power stations which is at present much higher than that on power equipment for new stations should also be at the same level if it could not be waived totally;

(vi) In view of the Central Government's anxiety to speed up implementation of externally aided power projects, the external assistance received should be onlent to project authorities in its entirety and on the same terms; and

(vii) Each State Eelctricity Board/Power Utility would establish a full time energy conservation cell under an officer of the rank of Chief Engineer to devise and implement energy conservation measures.

Plant Load Factor of Power Plants

368. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 130 power plants with their boilers as old as 30 years need immediate life extension and they can be brought to operate at a plant load factor of 60 per cent;

(b) whether these plants are at present running below 40 per cent capacity; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government either to remove these boilers or improve their functioning so that the capacity is increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) and (b) There are around 74 power plants with their boiler as old as 30 years. Of these, nearly 50 power plants are of very small capacities ranging from 1.25 MW to less than 20 MW aggregating to a total installed capacity of 461.88 MW. The remaining 24 power plants are in the capacity range of 20 to 75 MW aggregating to a derated capacity of 840 MW. Out of 24 power plants 9 units are under long duration outages or damaged. The rest of the 15 units are operating at an average plant load factor (PLF) of around 42 per cent.

(c) Out of 24 number of power plants, it is proposed to carry out Renovation and Modernisation works on 12 number of units with aggregating capacity of 480 MW under R&M phase-I programme. It is also proposed to carry out life extension studies on 2 number of units aggregating to 60 MW under World Bank Loan Assistance Programme.

Outstanding subsidies of State Governments to the State Electricitp Boards

369. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have suggested that the State Governments should liquidate their outstanding subsidies to the State Electricity Boards on a time bound basis and clear the backlog by March, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have considered the suggestions made by the Union Government; and